

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on German Patent No. DE 196 49 039 to Weber (“Weber”). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Weber. New claim 9 has now been added

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. DE 196 49 039 to Weber (“Weber”). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber.

Weber describes a washing machine with a door 10 and a lamp 3 near a hinge of the door. Optic fiber light conductors 4,5 are disposed at the frame or window of the door 10 to illuminate an opening to the washing machine 1. See Weber, Fig. 2 and abstract.

Independent claim 5 recites a washing machine including a housing with a stamped section and a door, “an edge of the door and a surrounding edge of the stamped section forming a gap area therebetween when the door is in a closed position.” Claim 5 also recites “light of the illumination device being reflected at an edge surface of the stamped section and a surface of the door edge so as to provide an illuminating ring visible at the front of the housing in the gap area.” It is respectfully submitted that these features are not disclosed or suggested by Weber. In contrast, the door 10 appears to cover the housing frame 8 of Weber, with no gap being formed between an edge of the door and a surrounding edge of a stamped section, as recited in claim 5. See Weber, Figs 1 and 3. Further, Weber does not disclose the light being reflected at an edge surface of the stamped section and a surface of the door edge so as to provide an illuminating ring, as also recited in claim 5. Weber merely appears to show optic fiber light conductors 4, 5 disposed in the frame or window of the door 10 connected to a light source 3 disposed in the frame 8. See Weber, Fig. 1.

Because Weber fails to teach or suggest at least the above-recited features of independent claim 5, it cannot anticipate claim 5 or its dependent claims 6-8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of

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the rejection of claims 5-7 and 8 as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, respectively, based on Weber is respectfully requested.

New Claim

New claim 9 has been added. New claim 9 recites that the “illumination device includes an optical waveguide disposed in the stamped section of the housing.” Support for new claim 9 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0020] of the Specification. It is respectfully submitted that Weber does not teach or suggest a waveguide disposed in the stamped section of the housing, and therefore that claim 9 is patentable over Weber.

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In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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